

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05590 170555Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /043 W

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P R 170525Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 731

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5590

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PGOV, PINT TH TW

SUBJECT: GENERAL PRAPHAT'S RETURN TO THAILAND

REF: A. TAIPEI 5530; BANGKOK 22999

1. APPARENT THAT GROC WAS AWARE OF PRAPHAT'S INTENTIONS TO RETURN TO BANGKOK ALTHOUGH I WAS TOLD BY MOFA REP LAST NIGHT THAT THEIR INFORMATION "CAME FROM UPI SOURCES." MY INFORMANTS HERE ANTICIPATED PRAPHAT WOULD AT FIRST LIE LOW, PRESUMABLY UNTIL GOT ATTITUDE CLARIFIED, BUT THEY EXPECT HIM TO REMAIN IN THAILAND. THAI ARMY WAS MENTIONED AS BEING AWARE IN ADVANCE OF PRAPHAT'S PLANS AND PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN AT LEAST AT BANGKOK END.

2. WHILE I HAVE NO REASON TO THINK THEY ARE IN ANY WAY RELATED TO PRAPHAT'S RETURN, I NOTE HIS RETURN VIRTUALLY COINCIDES WITH VISITS TO BANGKOK OF SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING GROC TYPES, VIZ:

A. GENERAL LAI MING-TANG, UNTIL END OF JUNE CHIEF OF STAFF, MND, WHO ACCORDING TO MY AUGUST 7 MEMCON WOULD BE ARRIVING BANGKOK ABOUT AUGUST 16 OR 17, WHERE HE EXPECTED TO SEE DAWEI AND KRIANGSAK AND OTHERS;

B. GENERAL WANG YUNG-SHU, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAU, ARRIVING BANGKOK AUGUST 16 FOR THREE-DAY VISIT WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE WORKDS FOR SOME TIME, WANG IS GUEST OF HIS THAI OPPOSITE NUMBER. HE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART BANGKOK FOR INDONESIA ON AUGUST  
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 05590 170555Z

19.

C. AMBASSADOR HAN LIH-WU, AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND ABOUT 1956-1964, RECENTLY HEAD OF INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CURRENTLY SECRETARY-GENERAL APACL. HAN TOLD ME LAST NIGHT HE WILL LEAVE FOR BANGKOK TOMORROW AND EXPECTS TO SEE DAWEE AND BE ENTERTAINED BY THANAT KHOMAN AND KRIANGSAK. HAN'S TRAVEL PLANS TO US WERE SUBJECT MY LETTER TO ART HUMMEL, AUGUST 2; AT THAT TIME HE DID NOT MENTION PLANS TO VISIT BANGKOK. AS CHARLIE WHITEHOUSE KNOWS FROM MY AUGUST 10 LETTER TO HIM, MRS. HAN RECENTLY (AUGUST 7 TOLD ME OF DINING WITH PRAPHAT AND THAT LATTER STATED HE HAD PERMISSION FROM GOT TO RETURN TO THAILAND AND THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SAME. UNGER

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